

The President's Daily Brief

24 July 1969 19 50x1

I MAJOR PROBLEMS

VIETNAM

Hanoi Radio announced on 23 July that gifts for US prisoners in North Vietnam could be sent until 15 August and that they should be sent to the DRV in care of Moscow. The radio claimed that gifts originally were to be sent only between 4 and 25 July. A deadline and routing instructions were omitted from Hanoi's announcement of 3 July on the release of prisoners and sending gifts. They were mentioned by Xuan Thuy during his private meeting with Ambassador Lodge in Paris last Friday, however. The new North Vietnamese announcement appears to be a direct response to Ambassador Lodge's strong appeals at that meeting concerning US prisoners. It is an unusually positive North Vietnamese gesture, probably intended to underscore Communist interest in getting on with the negotiations and into serious substantive bargaining.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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